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The TRUE and ADMIRABLE
HISTORY
OF THE
MARQUIS OF SALUS,
AND
*K. Quattinge
Marquis of Salus*
PATIENT GRISSEL.



HISTORY
OF THE
MARCH OF WALES



HISTORY

PATIENT GRISSEL.

CHAP. I.

How the Marquis of Salus was solicited by his Lords and Gentry to marry: He promises them he will. And how he falls in Love with the Daughter of Janicula, one of his Subjects, and a poor Countrymen.

BETWEEN the mountains of Italy and France, and towards the South lies the territory of Salus, a country flourishing with excellent towns and noble castles, and peopled with the best sort of Gentry and yeomen; and among whom there lived not long since, a Nobleman of great hope and expectation, Lord of the country, by name

Gaultier, Marquis of Salus ; to whom, as the government appertained by right of inheritance, so their obedience attended by desert of his worthiness. He was young in years, noble of lineage, and of such a lovely behaviour, that the best thought it a pleasure to be commanded by him, and the worst grew more tractable by his good example. His delight was in hunting and hawking, and the pleasure of the time present extinguished the care and time to come ; for he thought not of marriage, nor to entangle himself with the inconvenience of a wife ; till at last the noblemen and people of his country, discontented to see him disposed that way, and presaging a kind of prosperity to themselves by his marriage, assembled together upon a day, to determine of their resolutions, chusing one for their speaker, a noble Knight of great authority, fair demeanour, eloquent speech, and more inward with the Marquis than any of the rest, to acquaint the noble Marquis with their minds ; who being prepared, took an opportunity to acquaint the renowned Marquis with the minds of his beloved subjects.

When the noble lord had thus heard the petition of his loving subjects, he resolved to answer them as graciously as they had propounded the business with regard of duty.

When the company had found him so willing to their satisfaction they gave him thanks with one heart for his kind admission, and answered with one tongue, that they would honour his wife as the Princess of the world.

Thus did the report, like a messenger of glad tidings, fill the country with joy, and the palace with delight, when they understood their lord would marry, and in a manner heard the time appointed; for presently it was proclaimed through the country, and a day assigned for all to come to the court the nobles prepared themselves in the finest manner; the ladies spared no cost, neither to adorn their bodies or display their beauties; the gentry, the Citizens, the officers, and all ranks of people gloried in the hope of that festival; the Marquis's kindred were invited, foreigners admitted, his own people entertained, but no lady designed, no maid publish'd, no wife known, only the preparation was much, and the expectation greater.

All this while the noble Marquis continued his hunting, and as he had accustomed, resorted much to a poor country village, not far from Salus, where there dwelt a poor countryman, called Janicula, over-

thrown in years, and overcome with distress, but as it happens many times, that inward graces do moderate outward discommodities, and that God seasoneth poverty with contentment and their sufficient supportation, so had this poor man all his defects supplied in the admirable comfort of an only daughter so composed as if nature had determined a work of ostentation ; for such was her beauty and virtue, not only in appearance, but in reality, that it put judicious men to an extasy in a choice by comparison : but both united, did here grace each other ; and when they pretend-
ed an action, it was all to go forward to perfection ; and whereas in others this temporary blessing gave wings to desire to be seen and known abroad, in her these innate virtues, allayed the heat of all manner of passion, and breaking out of frailty, means they had were but small, and the diet they kept was to satisfy nature : the time was over-ruled by their stomachs, and the ceremonies they used were thanks to God, and moderation for their repast ; this was the glory of their poverty, and memory of their contentment.

But as fire will not be hid where there is combustible matter, so virtue will not be obscured where there are tongues and ears ;

nor could the Marquis so hollow after his hawks and hounds, but the report of this virtuous and fair damsel hollowed in his ear as from this wonder, insomuch that when it was confirmed by judicious relation he made it no dainty to be beholden to his experience; which when he say concurring with some, the maid brought a kind of astonishment, which continuing, the properties of both novelties increased to meditation; and in comparing the rest with this rarity he thought her a fit woman to make his wife; supposing that if she was vicious by nature, she could not prove vicious by education! but rather, as a diamond is a stone of the same value, whether set in lead or horn, it must needs be of more excellency embellished with gold and enamel, in which resolution he prepared his heart, and went forward with his busyness.

In the mean time the court was daintily furnished, the plate prepared, the apparel magnificent, the coronet rich, the jewels precious, the ornaments exceeding, and all things befitting the magnificence of a prince and the dignity of a queen; but the nobles wondered, the ladies were amazed, the damsels marvelled, the gentry disputed, the people flocked, and all sorts

attended, to see who should possess his wealth, and be adorned with these robes; at last the nuptial day came indeed, and all looked for a bride; but who she was the following chapter must discover.

C H A P. II.

How after all this great preparation, the noble Marquis of Salus demanded Griffel of her poor Father Janicula, and espousing her, made her Marchioness of Salus.

WHEN all things were prepared for this glorious show, the noble Marquis (as if he went to fetch his wife indeed) took with him a great company of Earls, Lords, and Knights; Esquires, Gentlemen, Laidies, and attendants, and went from his palace into the country towards Janicula's house; where the fair maid Griffel, knowing nothing of that which happen'd nor once dreaming of that which was to come, had made the house and herself somewhat handsome, determining (with the rest of the neighbouring virgins) to see this solemnity.

At which instant arrived the Marquis with all his gracious company, meeting with Griffel as she was carrying two pitchers of water to her father's, house of whom,

calling her by her name, he asked where her father was, she humbly answered, in the house : go then, said he, and tell him I woud speak with him ; so the poor old man (made the poorer to his astonishment) came forth to him somewhat abashed, till the Marquis, taking him by the hand, with an extraordinary cheerfulness, told him that he had a secret to impart to him, and so sequestering him from the company, spoke these words :

" Janicula, I know that thou always lovest me, and am satisfied that thou dost not hate me now ; you have been glad when I have been pleased, and will not now be sorrowful, If I be satisfied : nay, I am sure, if it lies in your power, you will further my delight; and not be contrary to my request, for I intend to beg your daughter for my wife, and be your son in law, for your advancement ; what sayest thou, old man ? will you accept me for a friend, as I have appointed thee for a father."

The poor old man was so astonished, that he could not look for tears, nor speak a word for joy ; but when the extasy had ended, he thus faintly replied :

" My gracious Sovereign,
You are my lord, and therefore I must accord to your will, but you are generous, and therefore I presume on virtue : take her in God's name, and make me a glad father ; and let that God which raiseth the humble and meek, make her a befitting wife, and a fruitful mother."

" Well then (quoth the Marquis) let us enter your house, for I must ask her a question

before you."—So he went in, the company carrying without with great astonishment. The fair maid was busied to make it as handsome as she could, and proud again to have such a guest under her roof, amazed at nothing but why he should come so accompanied, and little expecting so great a blessing approaching; but at last the Marquis took her by the hand, and used these Speeches:

" To tell you this blush becomes you, it were but a folly, and that your modesty hath graced your comeliness, may prove the deceit of words, and unbecoming my greatness; but in a word, your father and I have agreed to make you my wife and I hope you will not disagree to take me for your husband: for delay shall not entangle you with suspicion, nor two days longer protract the kindness; only I must be satisfied in this, if your heart affords a willing entertainment to the motion and virtue a connivancy to this resolution; not to repine at my displeasure in any thing nor presume on contradiction when I am determined to command: for as good soldiers must simply obey, without disputing the business so must virtuous wives consent without a reproof, or the least contradiction of a brow; therefore be advised how you answer; and I charge you to take heed, that the tongue utter no more than the heart conceives."

All this while was Grissel wondering at the miracle, had not religion told her, that nothing was impossible to the commander of all things, which reduced her to a better consideration, and brought forth an answer.

" My gracious Sovereign.

" I am not ignorant of your greatness, and know my own baseness ; there is no worth in me to be your servant, therefore there can be no desert to be your wife, notwithstanding because God will be the author of miraculous accidents, I yield to your pleasure, and praise him for the fortune ; only, this I will be bold to say, that your will shall be my delight, and death shall be more welcome unto me, than a word of displeasure against you."

After this the ladies adorned poor Grissel with robes befitting her estate, the Marquis and all the noble company returning to Salus and in the Cathedral church, in sight of the people, according to the fulness of religious ceremonies, they were espoused together, and with great solemnity returned to the palace.

C H A P. III.

How the Lady Grissel was proved by her Husband who made Trial of her Patience.

TO other blessings in process of time there was added the birth of a sweet infant daughter, that rejoiced the mother, and gladed the father : the country triumphed, and the people clapped their hands for joy ; for the Marquis still loved her more and more, and they thought their lives not dear for her, if occasion served, notwithstanding all this, fortune has still a trick to check the pride of life, and prosperity must be seasoned with some crosses, or else it would taint and corrupt us too much.

Whereupon the Marquis determined now to prove his wife, and make trial of her virtues indeed, and so taking a convenient season after the child was fully weaned, he one day repaired secretly to her chamber, and (seeming half angry) thus imparted his mind.

" Altho' Grissel, fortune hath raised you in the world, and blotted out the remembrance of your mean birth, yet it is not so with me nor my nobles, for they have taken a disgust at you, and are determined never to suffer any of your posterity to rule them, therefore, to prevent discontent, and preserve peace, I must submit to them, and take away your daughter from you, in order to keep their friendship."

The lady heard this sorrowful preamble, and apprehending the Marquis's resolution, to her grief (tho' every word might have been as arrows in her Sides) yet admitted of the temptation; disputing with herself to what end patience, modesty, forbearance, fortitude, and magnanimity were ordained, if they had not subjects to work upon, and objects to look after.

When the Marquis saw her constancy, he was much pleased, but said no more at that time, for his heart was full, and between joy and fear he departed: joy, that so great a virtue had the increase of goodness; fear, because he had presumed so far on such a trial: but, resolved in his business, he went to put it to the adventure,

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C H A P. IV.

The Marquis sent for his daughter, and privately disposed of her to his Sister, the Dutchess of Bologna de Grace, who brought her up in all things befitting the Child of so great a Person.

NO T long after this sad conference between the Marquis and his lady, he called a faithful servant unto him, to whom he imparted this secret, and with several instructions what he truly meant to do with the child, and then sent him to his wife to demand the child.

When she had received the message, remembering the conference the Marquis had with her, and apprehending there was no disputing in a matter not to be remedied, especially with a messenger, she concluded it was ordered to die, and altho' she was now (as it were) to commit it to a slaughter-house, whereby any woman in the world might with good becoming have burst into some passion, and well enough shewed a distracted extasy, yet recollecting her spirits, and reclaiming those motives of nature already striving in her bowels, she took the child in her arms, and with a mother's blessings and sweetened kisses, the countenance somewhat sad, and the gesture without any violent execution, delivered it to the messenger nor once amazed or distempered in her mind, because her Lord would have it so; and she knew not how to have it otherwise, only she said, I must, my friend, intreat one thing at your hands, that out of humanity and christian observation, you leave not the body

to be devoured of beasts and birds, for it was worthy a grave in her innocence, and christian burial, tho' she were but my daughter alone.

The messenger having received the child, durst not tarry, for fear of relenting, such impression had her words made upon him; but returned with it to his master, not leaving out the least circumstance of her answer, nor any thing that might enlarge her renown and constancy.

The Marquis considering the great virtue of his wife, and looking on the beauty of his daughter, began to enter into a kind of compassion, and to retract his wilfulness; but, at last resolved to pursue what he had begun: accordingly he sent the child away, with the utmost secrecy, to his sister the countess of Bologna, with presents of worth, and letters of gratification, containing in them the nature of the business, and the manner of bringing her up, which he accordingly put in practice.

C H A P. V.

The Marquis, resolute to prove his wife further, sendeth for his Son, and disposeth of him as he had done of his Daughter.

ABOUT four years after, she was delivered of a son, to the great joy of the whole country; but the Marquis took occasion once again to inflict upon this virtuous Grissel a new punishment, erecting his building upon the old foundation. As this patient and wonderful Lady was one day sporting with her infant like an untimely tempest spoiling the beauty

of some newrooted plants, did this messenger of death interpose himself between the recreation, making the hollow demand of her son, worse than the noise of a screech Owl over a sick man's bed, yet (as if there were a conscience disquieting her greatness, or if you will her goodness) he came forward with preambles and apologies insinuating with craying pardon, the authority of a lord, the duty of a servant, the terror of death, the circumstance of obedience, and all other enforcements which might either excuse a messenger, or make the message itself without blame; what shall I enlarge discourse of terror? it is a courtesy to conclude a mischief with quickness. He was not so quick in his demand as she was ready in his dispatch, for she presently blessed the child, kissed it, adorned it, and delivered it to the executioner only with the same enforcement she pleaded as she had spoke of in behalf of her daughter, not to see it perish for want of a grave.

In this manner, and with this report the messenger returned to his Lord, who had still more cause of amazement, and less reason to trouble such a creature, had not his wilfulness put him forward to make an end of his busines, and taught him still further to the trying of his gold in the fire. But for the time, he sent likewise this child to his sister the Duchess of Bologna, who understanding her brother's mind, brought up this children in such a fashion, that tho' no man knew whose children they were, yet they imagined whose they might be, that is, the son and daughter of some prince

or other potentate, willing to have his children brought up to the best purpose, and befitting their birth and honour.

The ordering of this business in this sort, made the Marquis once again settle himself in Salus, where he kept open house to all comers, and was proud of nothing so much as the honour of his wife, and the love of his people; for altho' he had thus tried her patience and constancy, giving her more than sufficient cause of anger and perturbation, yet could not find fault of the demonstrations of offence, but still she loved him more, and was so servingly dutiful, and cautious of displeasure, that many times he grew chavour'd of that he might command, and seemed passionate in the distraction of over joy. Nor could the length of time make his love wearisome, for all they had lived thus a dozen of years together: only she got the hand of him in the opinion of the people, who by this time began to whisper against his unkindness, that had married so virtuous a woman, and bereaved her of two children, so that if they were slain it was a murder, if otherwise it was unkindness: for tho' she was poor Janicula's daughter by birth, yet she might come from heaven for her virtue, and was sure to go thither for her piety.

Notwithstanding these breakings out, which came often to the ears of his honour, such was her moderation, and his government, that they only whispered the same in her behalf, and contented themselves with expectation of future good, as they had the fruition of future happiness, not meddling with the same farther

than in the commiseration of her, and still acknowledging their duty to him; so that altho' he knew she might this way understand his former reasons of taking away her children, that it was but a device, and that there were some other motives which procured his unkindness; yet was he still obstinate to excrise her patience, and conceit beat out another plot of offence, on the anvil of a loving yet most hardened heart.

C H A P. VI.

How patient Grisell was disrobed of her Apparel, and restored all that she had (except one poor Smock, to the Marquis).

AFTER this the Marquis being resolved to shew the last act of her trial, took one day an opportunity to acquaint her with a resolution he had taken of marrying another wife, and at the same time desires her to retire to her father's cottage, till he heard farther from him; to all which she cheerfully submitted, wishing him and his new spouse many years of joy; then she stript herself of all the rich jewels, cloaths, &c which she had got from the Marquis, only desiring a smock to return home in, which was accordingly given her.

The whole court could not refrain weeping and imploring the alteration of fortune; she could not chuse but smile, that her virtue was predominant over her passion: they did exclaim against the cruelty of her Lord; she disclaimed the least invective against him; they wondered

at her so great virtue and patience: she told them that they were exercises befitting modest woman. They followed her with true love and hearty desire to do her service. She thanked them with a sincere heart, and requested them to desist from deploring her state.

By this time they approached her old habitation and the poor old man Janicula, hearing the noise, came out to see what was the matter; and finding it was his daughter in her Smock, and in so honourable company, bemoaning her distreſts, he quickly left them all without speaking to any of them, and ran in for those poor robes which were formerly left in the house with which he quickly arrayed her, and told her before them all, that now she was in her right element, and kissing her, bid her welcome, the company was as much astonished at his moderation, as at her constancy, wondering how nature could be restrained from passion, and that any woman could be possell'd of so much patience: in which amaze, not without some reprobation of fortune and their Lord's cruelty, they left her to the cruelty of the Cell, and returned themselves to the glory of the palace, where they recounted to the Marquis the strangeness of the busines, and the manner of the accident, and how she continued in her first moderation, and indefatigable patience, the poor father only laughing to scorn the miseries and sudden mutability of human condition and comforting his daughter in her well begun course of modesty and repos'dness.

Not long after approached the Dutches of Bologna, with her beautiful Pupils, and a glorious company attending her: she had before sent word of her company, and the Marquis had ordered a troop of nobility to welcome her to the court, which was richly fitted up for her reception. The report of which had not so equal a passage, but divers contrary opinions thus handed themselves; some absolutely condemned the inconstancy of the Lord, others deplored the misfortune of the lady; some repined to see a man so cruel against so much worthiness; others exemplified her graces to all eternity, some were transported with the gallant youth, and comeliness of this her beautiful virgin; other perfumed to parallel the fair Griselle, but that she had stepped a little before her in years; some harped on her great nobility and high lineage; others compared the former wife's virtue and wisdom; some excused their Lord on account of his love to his country: & her's excused the lady by the nature of her adversity, until the approach of the fair virgin, and the young nobleman in, her company, extinguished all former conceits and set them to a new work, concerning this spectacle, wherein the young Lady and her brave brother had such preminence: nor new the duke of Bologna himself, nor any of the company on either side, that they were the Marquis's children by Griselle, but merely strangers and designed for his new marriage; so the Marquis made good semblance, and with his well accustomed complience welcomed them all to the palace.

The very next morning after Griffel had been conducted home to her father's house, the Marquis sent a messenger to her ordering her to come to him in the same manner as she was ; who protracted no time, but presently attended her lord : at her approach he was somewhat pleased, but yet setting, as we say, the best foot forward, he thus proceeded.

The Lady with whom I am going to marry will be here to morrow by this time, and the feast is prepared accordingly ; now, because there is none so well acquainted with the secrets of my palace and disposition of myself as you, I would have you, notwithstanding your mean attire, address your wisdom to the ordering of the business, appointing such officers as is befitting, and disposing of the rooms, according to the degree and estate of the persons ; let the Lady have the privilege of the marriage-chamber, and the young Lord the pleasure of the gallery ; let the rest be lodged in the courts, and the better sorts upon the sides of the garden. Let the wines be plentiful, and the ceremonies maintained ; let the shadows be sumptuous, and the pastimes as becometh. In a word, let nothing be wanting which may set forth my honour, and delight my people."

She answered him. " My Lord, I ever told you I took pleasure in nothing but your contentment, and whatsoever might confirm it to your delight, therein consisted my joy and happiness ; therefore make no question of my diligence and duty in this or any other thing which it may please you to impose upon me."

So like a poor servant, she presently set herself about the business of the house, performing all things with such a quickness of grace, that each one wondered at her goodness and fair demeanour, and man ymurmur'd to see her put to such a trial.

But the day of entertainment is now to come, and when the fair Lady approached, her very presence had

almost extinguished the impression of Griffel's worthiness, for some unconstant humours gave away to the alteration, not blaming the Marquis for such a change, but when the strangers were made acquainted with the fortune of Griffel, and saw her fair demeanour, they could not but esteem her a woman of great virtue and honour, being more amazed at her patience than at the mutability of man's condition, till at last she approached the Lady, and taking her by the hand, used this speech :

"Lady, if it were not his pleasure, that may command, to bid you welcome, yet methinks there is a kind of over-ruling grace from nature in you, that must exert respect unto you. And as for you, young Lord, I can say no more, but if I could have my desires satisfied in this world, they should be employed to wish you well, and to endeavour all things for your entertainment indeed. To the rest I afford what is fitting, desiring that if any deficiency abate their expectation, they would impute it either to my ignorance or negligence, for it is the pleasure of him in whose will is all my pleasure, that in all sufficiency you should have regard and suppliment."

Then she conducted them to their several chambers where they reposed themselves a while till the time of dinner invited them to a repast. When all things were prepared, and the solemnity of placing the guests finished, the Marquis sent for Griffel, and standing on his feet, took her by the hand before them all, creching his body, and elevating his voice in this manner.

" You see the Lady is here I mean to marry, and the company gloriously prepared to witness the union, are you therefore thus contented that I should dispense of myself, and do you quietly yield to the arrangement ? "

" My Lord, replied she, before these words were said as a woman I might be faulty, I could not have disputed, but because I am your wife, and have devoted

come near thy goodness, maketh a man better then himself, for without controversy except thou hadst been sent for from above, thou couldst never have acted a goddes's part below, and therefore seeing I have used the so unkindly, I promised never to disquiet thee hear-after, and wherein my cruelty extended against thee, in berieving thee of thy children, by love shall ever make amends in restoring the thy daughter, for this my new bride is she and this wanton her brother I thank this great Lady, my sister, for their bringing up, and this man (you know him well enough) for his secrésy : be not amazed at the matter. I have related the truth, and will confirm it on my honour, only sit down till the dinner is come, and bid the company welcome in this poor attire : for the sun will break through slender clouds, and virtue shine in base Array. I could much dilate the matter, but it is time to end, lest the circumstances never end "

This device of the Marquis, of kissing her so lovingly, and setting her down by him so discreetly, did much good, for the company had time to dispute of the miracle, and the young Lady reason to prepare her obedience, which no sooner was the dinaer ended but she as soon preformed nothing thought upon but joy at the matter and the wonder of the accident : every one pleased to see such a unity of goodness and all delightful to have a busines so well concluded: but seeing time had unclosed a book of such jolity, there was now no farther disputing for the Ladies flock'd about to attend her into the chamber, where the young princes her daughter was as ready as the best to apparel her, so that when she came amongst them again, she shin'd like the sun after a tempest, and seem'd more glorious because her continued modesty kept her from all insulting and vain glorious bravery.

myself to obedience, I am resolved to delight myself in nothing but your pleasure, so that if this match be designed for your good, and determined by your appointment. I am much satisfied, and more then much contented: and for your Lady, I wish her the delights of your marriage, and the honour of her husband, many years of happiness, and the fruits of a chaste wedlock. Only, gracious Lord, take heed of one thing that, you try not this new bride as you have done your old wife, for she is young, and so may want of that patience and government, which I, poor I, have endured, and peradventure of another strain." Till this he held out bravely, but nature overcoming his resolution and considering with what strange variety his unkindness had passed, he could not answer a word for tears, and all the company stood confounded at the matter wondering what would be the end of the busines, and the success of this extasy. But to draw them out of her doubts the next chapter shall determine the controversy.

C H A P. VII.

The oration of the Marquis to his wife, and the discovery of her Children to her great joy, and the contentment of the whole Company.

AFTER a little reducement of his passion at that time, and farther mediation had disposed his senses to their perfect state, the Marquis graciously answered.

" Thou wonder of woman, and champion of true virtue, I ashamed of my imperfections, and tired with abusing thee I have tried thee beyond reason, and thou hast forborn me beyond modesty: believe me, therefore I will not have a wife but thyself, and when God hath thought thee too good for the earth, I will (if it be not too much superstition) pray to thee in heaven. Oh ! it is a pleasure to be acquainted with thy worth, and to

Thus was the Marquis invested, as it were, with new blessedness, and continued in her old constancy. On admitted and reverenced for her worth, as he was esteemed and regarded for his wisdom, the nobles applying themselves to renown, his state, and the people proud they had such a Lord to obey, especially satisfied when the poor Janiculo was advanced to his counsil, and made governor of his palace; wherein he behaved himself so discreetly during his life, that he died with the memory of a good report, Grissel lived thirty years after him, and all went to their graves in good time, the country renowned over the world for good government, and famous for their extraordinary wonders.

TO BE SEEN

FINIS.

Augus. Frater.

THE END



